

## THE TIMES.

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THE MANCHESTER CIRCULATION OF THE TIMES IS NOW GREATER THAN ALL THE OTHER RICHMOND PAPERS COMBINED.  
THE CIRCULATION OF THE TIMES IS LARGER THAN EVER BEFORE IN ITS HISTORY, AND IS STEADILY INCREASING.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1892.

## SIX PAGES.

## NEWS SUMMARY.

Both houses of the General Assembly were in session.—The Kent bill discussed in committee.—Union Democratic Club met.—The Lee district annexation question discussed.—Rockets Democratic Club met.—Mr. McKenney and Miss Gray, and Mr. Cottrill and Miss Mull were married.

## VIRGINIA.

Preliminary survey of the Marion and Rye Valley railroad has been completed, and construction will soon begin.—A shooting scrape took place in High Valley Thursday between John L. Whitsett and Doc Bates. The latter had a lock of hair shot off.—Mr. Robert A. Pendleton died Sunday in Amherst.—Judge John W. Bell, of Culpeper, is critically ill.—John and Will Burroughs, who stabbed Mr. Samuel Thomas in Bedford City, have been arrested.—Two maiden ladies named Bartelle died of starvation and destitution in Fairfax county.—Mr. Walter Gregory, of Alexandria, while frenzied by grief, bit his wife severely.—Mr. James McWilliams, of Fairfax, is dead.—Rev. P. G. Scott, of Smithfield, is taking charge of St. Paul's church at Surry Courthouse.—Mrs. E. C. Berryman, of Smithfield, is dead.—A fatal cutting scrape, in which M. Z. Thompson was killed, occurred in Little River.—Mr. B. B. Walker, of Brookwood, and Mrs. Francis A. Clark died in Warsaw.—The stables of the Charlottesville and University Street railway were burned Tuesday.—Rev. J. Francis Robinson (colored), of Mount Zion church, Charlottesville, questioned certain statements of his financial committee and a row ensued.—Mayor Yancey has appointed a committee of Lynchburgers to visit the Legislature in the interest of the Lynchburg Woman's College.—The funeral of A. A. Pendleton, of Lynchburg, took place yesterday.—The board of trade of Lynchburg is opposed to the Kent railroad bill, and a mass meeting of citizens at Bedford last night also opposed the measure.—Cards are out for the marriage of Miss Lucy Breckinridge to Mr. Easley, of Richmond.—A prize fight near Norfolk between a New Yorker and an Indian resulted in the defeat of the former.

## GENERAL.

The anti-Hill movement is rapidly gaining momentum.—The statement of the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company for the past month shows a decided increase in earnings.—The bill allowing reporters to witness electrical executions has passed both houses of the New York General Assembly.—Rayward Kipling, it is said, will make his home in the United States.—There was an increased demand for cotton in New York yesterday.—David Porter, of Savannah, Ga., was shot dead by his wife yesterday morning for beating his wife.—Seven men were arrested at Babun Ga., yesterday for illicit distilling.—Rufus Glover, the well-known scout, was shot and killed by the Mexican revolutionists a few days ago.—The Democratic members of the Committee on Ways and Means discussed the McKinley tariff yesterday.—Lieutenant Mason A. Schofield, of the navy, died at Cape Town, Africa, yesterday.—Senator Voorhes of the Senate yesterday denounced the correspondent of the Philadelphia Press as a liar.—It is reported that the steamship Elder, which went ashore at Atherfield Sunday night, will be a total loss.—A serious split has occurred in the Kansas Alliance.—Patrolman Peter Chandler died in Baltimore yesterday of hydrophobia.—Ex-President Cleveland will deliver address in Detroit, Mich., February 22.—It is reported that Italy will send a diplomatic representative to the United States in a few days.—The House of Representatives again discussed the report of the Committee on Rules yesterday.

There are being constantly enacted in this country tragedies which show the deadly folly of the American habit of carrying concealed weapons about their persons. The Hamlink-Shreiner homicide in Washington on Sunday is one of the most deplorable of recent illustrations of the fatalities that are promoted by this barbarous habit. The result of that terrible episode is the death of a young man of the highest promise to the community in which he lived and the serious wounding of his sister, with all the probabilities leaning to the side of its fatal termination. Such an affair should be thoroughly investigated, and the guilty party, if the surviving party, should receive the fullest penalty of the law, not only as a punishment for his own crime, but as a warning to all who invite a tragedy by carrying about with them the instruments that render it always imminent.

Hon. David B. Hill has been going too fast, and his effort to seize upon the New York delegation to Chicago by his machine, and take snap judgment upon the Democracy of the State by calling an immediate convention to meet before his opponents could organize, is reacting upon him very seriously. The people of the United States do not relish the idea of the exalted position of President being degraded to the level of a ward political office, and Mr. Hill's vaulting ambition has evidently overleaped itself.

The decision of the Supreme Court confirming the constitutionality of the Anti-Lottery law is, in its moral aspects at least, entirely in conformity with the wishes of the body of the American people. The existence of such an organization as the Louisiana Lottery Company has long been a national disgrace, and all efforts, not only to scotch the snake, but to kill it, will be regarded with hearty approval when entirely within the bounds of the established law of the land.

## THE TARIFF AND THE TRIUMPH.

Those who read *The Times*—and who that would keep abreast of the world does not?—know that it regards Mr. Cleveland as the foremost living Democrat. His fixed convictions, his singleness of purpose and unswerving devotion to the public good make him more entirely the typical leader than any other man of the day. In saying this, however, *The Times* is saying not one word aimed at suggesting that he be the next nominee. It is introductory to quite another theme.

Mr. Cleveland precipitated the party just before the last presidential election into a struggle for tariff reform versus a protective tariff; but, while we lost that election, he drove the party into an active, life-fighting principles that affect every man in his home and against principles that, carried to their logical end, would convert the masses into slaves. He might have been very rash, but he did the Democratic party a great service. He gave it something to struggle for, and that something was a principle that operates on all. The party was in superb trim for carrying its banners triumphantly over the next battle-field.

But now comes news from Washington that brings bad tidings for the Democratic party. It is openly and generally asserted, first, that a sort of political pact has been formed between Senators Hill, Gorman and Brice which proposes to control and shape Democratic legislation on the tariff at this session, and, second, that it will prevent any attempt at enacting statutes to revise the tariff, but will have the House of Representatives to limit itself to passing a set of resolutions condemning the principles of a protective tariff. Could there be a more imbecile ending to a noble fight? The people having sent to the House of Representatives an overwhelming majority instructed to destroy the inequities of a protective tariff and a triumvirate of machine politicians to thwart the people's will and switch their representatives off on a side-track of treacle and tin gruel?

A distinguished Virginia judge told the writer that a law student came before him to be examined for a license to practice law. Wishing to test his knowledge of the nature of the different actions that may be brought he asked him what he would do if a client came to him with an account to collect. "I would go and ask the debtor to pay it," the student promptly replied.

"Oh, but," said the judge, "suppose he told you he would not pay it, what would you do then?" "I would go and see him again," replied the student. "Oh, but," said the judge, "suppose he told you this time that if you came there again he would kick you out of his office, what would you do then?" "I would offer to compromise," said the student.

This is just the position in which the triumvirate would place the Democratic party. Our guns are planted, our ranks are formed, our muskets loaded, our bayonets fixed, the colors float in the breeze, and just as we are about to storm the enemy's entrenchments and plant our flag upon his battlements, the timid little fellows who never heard a shot without their knees smiting each other step up and say: "Oh, let us compromise." The party that fights for a vital, living principle deserves to win, and will win. The party that traffics in its rights and sells its opportunities deserves to lose, and will lose.

## THE APPOMATTOX RECORDS.

The destruction by fire Monday of the court-house of Appomattox, together with all the records of the county, is only an additional evidence of the continuous danger to which the valuable records of this State are exposed. The records of Appomattox were among the oldest in the Southside division, and were of great importance to the people of the county as well as of great interest to all who had occasion to make any examination of the past annals of that section of Virginia.

Useful and instructive as they were, however, they were not comparable in value to the records antedating the year 1700, which, it has been earnestly suggested, should be copied as a means of preserving them permanently, and for which work an appropriation is sought from the State Treasury. The destruction of the ancient records of such counties, for instance, as Accomac, Northampton and York, would entail a loss which could never be replaced because depositories of facts which throw a very vivid light upon the earliest history of Virginia would be entirely obliterated.

Necessarily the period in the annals of Virginia covered by such records as those which were lately destroyed in Appomattox is not of the same interest as the formative period of the seventeenth century, but even if it were of the same interest there are few counties in the State which do not possess records that throw as much light upon it as the records of Appomattox. Like the leaves of the Sybil, the records that still remain of the seventeenth century in Virginia are valuable, not only intrinsically, but also from the very paucity of their number. The destruction of these ancient records would be a blow to our local history, because there are so few of the same age. And yet not a day passes that the announcement may not be made that the oldest records of one of the oldest of our Tidewater counties has just been reduced to ashes in the conflagration of the building in which they were kept.

The burning of the Appomattox records should be a warning which should not be permitted to go by unheeded. The lesson of that event should be taken to heart. Before it is too late an appropriation should be granted by the State for the copying of all the records that survive of the first century of Virginia. At least let us take the proper precautions to render these secure.

## THE NEW YORK ENMITY.

It is superfluous to say that *The Times* will loyally support whatever Democrat the united wisdom of the National Democratic Convention shall put forward as our candidate. It recognizes the fact that the President must be a Northern man, and all that it struggles for is to have that President our Northern man rather than the other fellow's Northern man. On the question what Northern man shall be put forward as our Northern man, *The Times* has its own decided views, and awaits the result of the National Convention.

But, this much being said, *THE TIMES* must be permitted to express its very emphatic condemnation of what is now in progress in the State of New York, engineered, as all the probabilities indicate and as all the world believes, by Governor Hill's friends.

The Democratic authorities of New York have resorted to the very extraordinary expedient of calling a State convention for February 22d to select delegates to a national convention that does not meet until June. All the world knows that the convention is called by Governor Hill's friends; that it will be a Hill convention, and that it will appoint a unanimous Hill delegation to the national convention.

Popular judgment, which is rarely wrong in such matters, immediately concludes that this is done to impress the public mind between now and June with the belief that Gov-

ernor Hill can carry New York and that no other Democrat can. This may be so. But whether it is so or not, this is an unwarrantable manner of forestalling public judgment upon that point, which is unworthy of Governor Hill, unworthy of New York Democrats and which will react against those engineering the movement if it is persisted in, as surely as that justice is loved by men and oppression detested by them.

The Hill organs are very solicitous to know why it is that when Mr. Hill is likely to get the New York delegation to Chicago the party is urged to go West for a candidate, while if Mr. Cleveland should get that delegation nothing would be said on the subject. The reason is very plain. Careful and thinking men in the party believe that Mr. Cleveland is the only Eastern man who can carry the West on account of his tariff record and general prestige, and as it is exceedingly desirous to carry that section, if he cannot be nominated, a strong Western man should be chosen. Of course if Mr. Hill can control New York and is a Democrat, he would throw his whole influence in favor of the Democratic nominee, whoever he might be, and so New York would be safe.

The New York World evinces an exceedingly kind spirit to Virginia when it says: "Virginia can afford only \$30,000 for the Fourth of July or Independence Day. It is simply honesty that Virginia should make its contribution small. It must be just its creditors before being generous to its own industries."

## THE KENT BILL.

The Railroad Commission Discussed Before the House Committee.

The House Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation held another meeting this morning, with Mr. John F. Ryan in the chair, to consider the Kent Railroad Commission bill. Mr. Frank A. Reid, of Alexandria, was the first speaker. He stated that he appeared on behalf of the board of trade of that city to protest against the passage of the bill. He read a set of resolutions passed by that body, which stated that any legislation like that proposed in the bill to create a railroad commission would be disastrous and the representatives of Alexandria in the General Assembly are requested to prevent the passage of the bill. The resolutions were signed by all the directors and about twenty of the leading firms, among them all the banks. Mr. Reid said that the bill was pernicious in its tendency, disastrous in its result and emphatically obnoxious to the people of Virginia. Hereafter the existence of the State debt had kept foreign capital out of this State, but now the debt was about to be removed and it would hardly be wise to introduce another measure that would drive out foreign capital. If the bill should become a law the railroad companies would be compelled to take refuge in one of three alternatives. They would have to reduce expenses by cutting down wages and reducing the force of employees, or allowing the sliding stock and road rates to be placed for the want of money, or again to raise the interstate rates. This latter would perhaps be tried first and if so the commission would have no power to correct it. The speaker then dwelt on the steamboat companies, which had also been taken advantage of by the bill, and said that the bill would drive away competition. Railroad Commissioner Hill during his term of office had few very few complaints, and in almost all cases had been no difficulty to make satisfactory arrangements, but all these complaints had been so insignificant that they would have hardly any standing in court. For the past three years, according to the statement of General Hill, no complaints had been made that could not be settled satisfactorily by the speaker.

Messrs. Park Aneve and M. B. Harlow, other members of the Board of Trade of Alexandria, corroborated the statements and concurred with the views expressed by Mr. Reid. A delegation from the Chamber of Commerce, which was expected, but for some reason the gentlemen did not appear. Mr. Warner Moore, one of the largest shippers in this city, expressed his views in brief and stated that Mr. Tucker the other day had said that he represented the Chamber of Commerce when he spoke in favor of the bill. He said he had not received the speaker on that occasion, and the same could be said for a number of other members. The introduction of the bill had emanated from the committee on inland trade and it was then introduced by the board of trade. The speaker then thoroughly looked into the bill. If the bill was passed so as to give the commission the power to fix rates, he thought Richmond's throat would be cut.

Mr. Mallet stated that a delegation of Norfolk business men would arrive in Richmond this day, and they were anxious to be heard on the bill. Chairman Ryan assured Mr. Mallet that the gentlemen would have an opportunity next Thursday to be heard. Railroad Commissioner Hill was next invited to express his views. He stated that he neither intended to antagonize nor to favor the bill. He said he had no voice in the matter in connection with the railroad reform. He explained the practical workings of the present law as experienced by him during the five years which he had been in office. The present law had been taken from the Massachusetts law and in the State of New York the commission had never been given any power over rates. The effect of the existing law in Virginia had been the adjustment of perhaps a thousand complaints of every description during his term of office. If a well founded complaint was made it would be and nearly always had been adjusted very fairly, with possibly a few exceptions, but during the past eighteen months every complaint had been settled to the satisfaction of all. The commission could not compel any railroad company to run a train by which it loses money; this was laid down in the laws of all States. The contention between the different railroad companies in Virginia now were as good and satisfactory as in any other State south of the Potomac. Local rates in Virginia were lower than in any State between the Potomac and the Pacific Ocean and lower than the average rates in all the States of the Union. He admitted that there were some just complaints, for instance, those of the cattle dealers along the Norfolk and Western railroad, but they could be settled if a committee of shippers conferred with the railroad authorities. The greatest evil was one that could not be cured by any sort of commission—the delay in settling claims. He stated that he had no jurisdiction, but could only attempt to secure an adjustment of complaints. When questioned by Mr. Kent, General Hill admitted that the powers provided in the Kent bill were the same as those in the existing law, except that the bill secured their enforcement. He stated that extreme remedies would be destructive of railway extension in the State and would have a tendency of driving capital away. During his term of office about 1,000 miles had been added to the railroads of the State and their revenues had nearly doubled.

Six names of the Wythe Mining Company, of Louisa, complained of the fact that the existing law empowered short, private lines to charge eight cents per mile on freight rates, which was about eight times as much as the great trunk lines charged.

## Interred in Hollywood.

The funeral of Mrs. Alcinda Morgan Robinson took place yesterday afternoon from the 2:30 P. M. train, leaving for Washington Saturday of paralysis, and the remains were brought here for interment in Hollywood. The friends of the family assembled first at the house of her sister, Mrs. John E. Robinson, at 1113 South Third Street and went from thence to the train. Rev. Mr. Mason, of St. James' Episcopal church, conducted the services, assisted by Bishop Randolph. The funeral cortege was a very long one. The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Active—Benjamin C. Wherry, Archer Anderson, M. J. Dimmock, G. Watson James, Austin C. Bell, Thomas N. Jones, Foltz Robinson, W. H. Perkins, Jr., Hon. General Joseph R. Anderson, Herbert Claiborne, W. H. Palmer, John P. Branch, William D. Gibson, E. Y. Cannon, James Worth and Christopher Robinson.

## NEW COURT OF APPEALS.

ORGANIZED WITH MUCH CEREMONY.

Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller and Justices Bond and Hughes on the Bench.—The New Court-Room.—The Attorneys.

Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller did not arrive yesterday morning, and the United States Circuit Court of Appeals did not convene at noon as was anticipated.

Judge Bond, of Maryland, was present, but as Judge Goff has not yet been confirmed he was not present, and no assignment of a district judge could be made to fill the bench.

At 2:38 P. M. Chief Justice Fuller arrived from Washington and was driven directly to the court-room. He and Judge Bond then assigned District Judge Robert W. Hughes, of Virginia, to fill the vacancy on the bench, and the court was duly and formally opened.

Mr. J. A. Pleasants, clerk of the court, announced the approach of the judges in the following words: "The Honorable, the Chief Justice of the United States, and the associate judges of the United States Circuit Courts of Appeals."

The entire audience rose and stood until the judges were seated, when the clerk proclaimed: "Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! All persons having business before the Honorable, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth circuit are admonished to draw near and give their attention, for the court is now sitting." Chief Justice then read the following order:

## THE COURT REPORTER.

"Ordered, That Samuel A. Blatchford, of No. 18 Exchange Place, New York city, counsel-at-law, be, and he is hereby, designated as reporter of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth judicial circuit."

Ordered, also, That the clerk shall send to the reporter, without expense to the latter, a copy of the printed record, and of the printed briefs in each case, as soon as possible after they are deposited in the clerk's office, and a certified copy of every written opinion delivered by the court, as soon as it is filed."

The Chief Justice asked if any motions were desired to be made. General Watts, of West Virginia, asked an order of court, extending the time for filing the case of P. J. Hackett et al., plaintiff in error, against the Marnet Company.

## ADMITTED TO PRACTICE.

The Court asked if any attorneys desired to be admitted to practice before the court. Colonel Tazewell Elliott proposed the following names, and the attorneys were duly sworn and registered their names in the court book: A. B. Henshaw, Cornelius C. Watts, West Virginia; Richard L. Maury, Virginia; John J. A. Powell, Virginia; James Alfred Jones, Virginia; Matthew F. Maury, Virginia; R. A. Ayres, Virginia; James Thompson, New York; Governor A. B. Smith, Maryland; George G. Wells, South Carolina; Robert C. Dale, Philadelphia; George E. Prince, South Carolina; George E. Spivey, Virginia; Edward G. Conrad, Virginia; John E. Roller, Virginia; and J. S. Cochran, South Carolina.

The first case on the docket was called, and Mr. James Thompson, of New York, argued for the appellant.

After the argument in the case by Mr. Thompson was finished the court adjourned until today at 11 o'clock when Mr. Robert H. Smith, of Baltimore, will close the argument. The court adjourned the court in the morning. This honorable court is now adjourned until to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

## EIGHT CASES FOR TRIAL.

There were eight cases duly docketed and ready for trial:

- No. 1, from Maryland, Horatio J. J. Wise, master and claimant of the British ship "Lepanto," appellant against the steamer, Bennett and William A. Anderson, claimants of the schooner "Cassie F. Brown."
- No. 2, from South Carolina, Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, plaintiff in error, against J. L. McGee and W. R. Dillingham.
- No. 3, from Virginia, Samuel J. Hoffman et al., appellants in the case of Samuel Knox et al., against The Columbia Liberty Iron Company.
- No. 4, from Maryland, Charles Haffee, appellant, against Eugene P. Clark.
- No. 5, from Virginia, Christian Van Gendoven, Elwin F. Partridge, Frank Brenton, John Flanagan and Charles N. Foster, plaintiffs in error, against The Virginia Coal and Iron Company.
- No. 6, from Virginia, Lewis Luckenbach, Edward Luckenbach and J. J. A. Keene, appellants, against The Baltimore Steam Packet Company.
- No. 7, from Maryland, claimant of steamship "Serapis," appellant, against Henry Smith.
- No. 8, from Maryland, Milfin Kennedy, appellant, against claimant of schooner "R. L. Bilboe."

Since the organization of the court, which occurred on the 10th day of June last, there has been made a radical change in the court-room and the private offices of the judges. Marshal Thomas S. Atkins has labored assiduously to perfect all arrangements, and with every device and comfort which belong to a court of such dignity. The bench has been lengthened, making ample room for its distinguished presiding officers, and its highly polished pine covered with a dark blue cloth, and in the rear, with revolving chairs upholstered in red leather was attractive in its extreme. Behind the judges hung huge curtains of burnished gold and seal

brown, and the rich carpeting of the court-room was in keeping with the air of luxury and comfort.

The clerk's desk, to the left of the bench, and the marshal's table, to the right, are made of cherry with the dark blue cloth, and a large table directly facing the court was placed for the use of the counsel or present in their cases. A number of tables of the same character were placed about the room, each supplied with writing material and designed for the use of attorneys in the preparation of written matters. A table was also provided for the reporter, immediately to the left of the bench, and facing the speakers. Comfortable revolving chairs were placed in plenty within the rail, and the entire furnishing of the room was complete in every detail. The judges' private rooms were provided with similar desks and bookcases and also leather covered seats were unique and admirable, and Marshal Atkins deserves praise for his labors and commendation for the exhibition of excellent taste.

## WORK OF CLERK MELONY.

Since the organization of the court Clerk Henry T. Melony, of Baltimore, has taken up his residence in this city, and has been industriously engaged in the performance of his duties, which attending a new court have of necessity been onerous in the extreme. A well-filled letter book attested the hundreds of letters which he has been called upon to answer relative to the construction of the rules adopted by the court and he has in most all of the eight cases presented been compelled to supervise the printing of the records, although this is supposed to be done by the attorneys in the case. The manuscripts have been sent to him with the request that they be printed and put in shape, and he has indexed and superintended their printing. In addition to these labors he has had to perfect blanks for supersedeas bonds, appeal bonds, writs of error, citations, decrees and mandates, rules and dockets, and has been a busy man, accomplishing only what could have been done by a clerk thoroughly conversant with the duties of his office.

## NOTES.

The rules of the court provides that only two hours shall be alloted for the arguments on each side. The docket will be ready to be completed and the court adjourned by the last of the week.

The observances in the opening and adjournment of the court are the same as those employed in the United States Supreme Court.

A rule of the court is that no person shall enter the room with overcoat on as in the subsequent removal of disorder is created. A large screen is placed before the front door and each attorney and visitor is expected to divest himself of hat and overcoat before appearing in the room.

## Police Court.

Justice Cretchfield disposed of the following cases yesterday morning: James Baker (colored), assaulting and beating Indiana Willis and John W. Booker, fined \$5 and costs. James was also charged with beating W. T. Timberlake, but on this charge he was dismissed.

Samuel Hirschberg paid \$5 and costs for fighting. Henry Reid (colored), charged with being a suspicious character. Surety required in the sum of \$100.

P. R. Farrington, assaulting and beating Bettie Moseley, fined \$2.50 and costs. Julia Cooper (colored), charged with striking Martha Clark with a brick. Dismissed.

Catherine Johnson (colored), assaulting and cutting with a razor Charles E. Russell. Case continued until to-day.

George Toler, drunk, fined \$2 and costs. J. F. Atkinson, drunk, fined \$2 and costs. James Anderson and Edward Lee, charged with cruelly treating a cow and calf. Dismissed.

David Donati, charged with keeping his dog on Sunday. The evidence was not sufficient to sustain the charge and the case was dismissed.

The continued case of David Donati, charged with assaulting J. Murphy, came up, Dr. Seigel testified as to the condition of the injured man and the case was continued till the 11th inst.

K. Smith, charged with having in his possession stolen goods, was dismissed. He was also charged with promoting a certain game of lottery, and for this he was sent on to the grand jury.

The continued case of H. M. Vidler, charged with selling sundry articles of dress goods, accused from Levy & Davis, came up, and the accused was sent on to the hustings court.

## The Third House.

During the discussion of the lien supply bill in the House of Delegates yesterday Mr. Letcher, of Rockbridge, who advocated the passage of the bill, mentioned the fact that the measure had been introduced by the Chamber of Commerce of this city, which body he called the third house. This remark was later on taken up by Mr. Gibson, of Culpeper, who said the Chamber of Commerce had no right to constitute themselves a third body and take action on all political questions. They should only attend to commercial affairs of the city.

## Duff's Opera Company.

On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of next week Duff's famous opera company will be at the New Richmond Theatre in "The Queen's Mate" and "The Captive." The organization is one of the most perfect on the road and includes forty-six people. Among them are Miss Bettina Padelford and Miss Bertram. Complimentary notices have been showered on this troupe wherever they have been, but Mr. Duff's name, being at the head of the great weekly entertainers, Richard Carroll, who made an enviable reputation at Palmer's Theatre with Marie Tempest in the successful "Red Hussar," is the comedian of the company.

## THE OYSTER QUESTION.

A Subject of Deep Interest to Every Taxpayer.

FARMVILLE, VA., Feb. 2.—In the afternoon paper of Monday I note an article signed "A Fellow Taxpayer," which impresses me with the correctness of its position and fully justifies the oyster legislation as advocated. The bill published in *The Times* of last Sabbath seems to me to be a step in the right direction, and while I am not a thorough oyster lover, I am convinced that it is right and equitable. There can be no mind to be reasonable opposition to the suggestion to submit the matter of leasing the oyster grounds to the board of public works, at least such portions of these grounds as they may deem proper.

For a number of years the expenses of such vessels as the State provided for the protection of this industry have been largely in excess of the amounts which, under careful expenditure, were necessary for their maintenance. No man for years who did secure a rental at the maximum of the law—one year, would with security plant or improve those lands or beds which he became controller of, and with the conditions thrown around the industry who vain would thrive by this industry. He was of necessity thwarted in his efforts, and often of the meagre results of his accomplishment.

The State, which for years has rested in a cloud before the world, owing to her many resources, which it is her right and which it is more than just that she should employ. The revenues from her oyster beds has been one of these, and now it is proper that she should embrace the opportunity to receive all that is legitimate and proper from them.

No single portion of the State is entirely interested or benefited by the rental of the oyster beds or the collection of this revenue. A portion of the State, from the mountains ranges of the Southwest to the Tidewater sections, wherever taxes are imposed and collected, are the people vitally interested.

It is true that a number of years ago, when the residents of Virginia, the vast oyster grounds of Tangier and Pocomoke sounds were deemed to be inexhaustible now, however they are greatly depleted and many beds almost irreparably destroyed by the improper working or overworking of these oyster grounds. Upon investigation I find it true that 500,000 acres which should pay to the State \$40,000,000 in gross and to the State revenue of \$5,000,000, cost the State the sum of \$6,042,21, and in 1900 the State over and above the revenues derived from their taxation. Thus it is readily seen that the oyster becomes an absolute expense to the State, rather than a source of almost incalculable benefit, and by lack of proper management or laws the original natural resources are perverted into an actual source of extravagance. Nothing could more properly disclose this fact than the figures which after verification I submit:

	Receipts.	Expenditures.
1890.....	\$20 29	\$20 29
1891.....	2,329 23	2,329 23
1892.....	1,279 22	1,279 22
1893.....	919 85	919 85
1894.....	2,225 86	2,225 86
1895.....	2,249 99	2,249 99
1896.....	1,273 99	1,273 99
1897.....	1,273 99	1,273 99
1898.....	1,273 99	1,273 99
1899.....	1,273 99	1,273 99
1900.....	1,273 99	1,273 99

The entire million acres of oyster grounds now leasing the State only \$1,000,000, and still leave the \$3,000 to be distributed to the oyster farmers at the State's expense, or rather in such other manner as may be selected.

Governor McKinney today says in his message on this subject "It matters not what portion of the State you come from, you satisfy your people with no allowance of the revenue of the State to be sent away for a trifle, while they have the weight of taxes which are onerous to them."

The question is one of the deepest interest to every taxpayer in this State. The laws must be as fair as possible, and no higher taxes should be created or increased, which so taxation would reduce the burden now now bear to a great and considerable extent.

Governor McKinney informs the members of one of our great stations was said, that an oyster bank will produce more than a bank of paper currency, and will make a richer source of profit to the State, with no known mine of coal, copper, or gold."

## Howell &amp; Shaw Have Moved.

We are now to be found in our new quarters, 1904 and 1905 East Main street, where we have backed up against our former headquarters from Franklin street in the past. We have plenty of room now and all of our business friends are invited to call on us. We have the finest bedding and upholstered furniture, smallest cost. Will carry the same kind of fine materials that we did at 219 Broad street, and everything new that appears will be added. We feel that we will not be disappointed by our patrons who have so long supported our work on Broad street, and welcome to the interest of all others to find new places. For fine bedding we are capable, and we produce the finest comforters and lounges that can be made at prices that such work has ever before been sold. If you can't come, write a postal, or call on us.

## The Minstrels Saturday.

"Gorman's Minstrels" made a host of friends on their first appearance in Richmond, which was last season. The entertainment was one of the most successful of the winter, and it is claimed that the performance has been added to the list of proved. There will be a matinee and a performance at night on Saturday.

## HELLER &amp; CO'S

## GREAT CLOSING-OUT SALE OF

## BOOTS, SHOES, TRUNKS,

## SATCHELS AND CLUB-BAGS,

## COMMENCING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1st,